



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
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Milton L. Mack, Jr.
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2017

TO: Chief Circuit Court Judges
Family Division Judges
Circuit Court Administrators
Family Court Administrators

FROM: Milton L. Mack, Jr.

SUBJECT: Reunification Day Event in Michigan

The American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law has designated June as National Reunification Month in an effort to recognize families and the many professionals who support them in having their children successfully returned home from foster care. During June, states across the nation are planning events to celebrate and honor families who have been successfully reunified. Michigan is one of 27 states that have held "Reunification Day" events. At last year's celebration at the Hall of Justice, Justice Bridget M. McCormack expressed her hope that this event would become a tradition and counties all across Michigan would hold their own reunification events in coming years.

On June 30, 2017, Michigan's second annual Reunification Day celebration will again be held at the Hall of Justice. A luncheon and program to honor successful families will be sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services, and the Michigan Court Improvement Program. The program will feature remarks by judges and child welfare advocates on the topic of family preservation, and highlight inspiring stories of triumph from parents who have successfully been reunified with their children. The vital role that community partners play in helping to strengthen, support, and reunify families will also be recognized.

We are pleased to join the American Bar Association and the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges by participating in National Reunification Month activities and urge your court to hold a local celebration. For information about Reunification Month, including highlights from past events around the country and planning tools to help you design your own Reunification Day event, please visit the ABA's website: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/what_we_do/projects/nrd.html

If a court has questions or would like additional information, please contact Casey Anbender at 517-373-5234 or AnbenderC@courts.mi.gov.